

Cabinet to set up committees to negotiate with PLO

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet has decided to set up a ministerial committee to hold talks with the Palestinian leadership on the issues that should be settled soon between the two sides, Minister of State for the Prime Ministry Affairs and Information Minister Jawad Al Anani said Monday. Dr. Anani said the talks aim to organise the process of economic exchanges between Jordan and the Palestinians under two main facts: the economic cooperation agreement signed between the two sides Jan. 17, and the developments taking place on ground in Jericho and Gaza Strip after new institutional Palestinian structures are coming into existence. Dr. Anani said in a panel broadcast Monday evening by Jordan Television, and in which director of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Economic Department Ahmad Qurei' and economic expert Tayseer Abdul Jaber participated, that the two sides should draft flexible and dynamic working plans capable of dealing with the social changes taking place on the Palestinian arena.

Volume 18 Number 5614

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جورдан تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالإنجليزية عن مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية - الراي

Jordan Times

AMMAN TUESDAY, MAY 17, 1994, THU AL HIJEH 6, 1414

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

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ROYAL JORDANIAN

YOUR WINDOW ON THE WORLD

Christopher carries Syrian reaction to Israel but meeting with Rabin postponed

Damascus insists on 'reasonable' timetable for pullout from the Golan

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher arrived in Tel Aviv on Monday with reactions from Syria to Israel's peace package after Damascus called for a "reasonable" withdrawal timetable from the Golan Heights.

Mr. Christopher's scheduled talks with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin were put off from Monday evening to Tuesday, state radio reported without giving reasons.

"Yes, there are (Syria's) reactions to proposals that are going back and forth," the secretary told reporters on the flight to Tel Aviv after meetings in Damascus with President Hafez Al Assad and Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa.

The visit to Syria came two weeks after his last regional shuttle when he took Israel's latest peace package to Mr. Assad.

The secretary held two rounds of talks with Mr. Sharraa, interspersed with consultations with his advisors. Straight after arrival on Sunday, he held a four-hour-meeting with President Hafez Al Assad.

Mr. Christopher was brief Israeli officials on his talks in Syria, where the official press called for a rapid Israeli withdrawal from the Golan amid reports that Syria wanted Israel to complete the withdrawal in three years.

State-run Damascus Radio praised the United States for deploying "intense and serious efforts to help the parties move closer together and push forward on the long road to peace."

American side... to discuss the ideas and proposals" which Mr. Assad and the secretary examined on Sunday.

The two foreign ministers also reviewed relations between Washington and Damascus, namely a U.S. decision earlier this month to keep Syria on a list of countries sponsoring terrorism, informed sources said.

"The Syrians have been very angry with this decision and they feel that if the United States considers them 'terrorists' then it is not logical for them to be discussing peace," one source said.

The government daily

Tishrin said Syria was willing to negotiate an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan on condition Israel pledged a complete pullout within an

"acceptable and reasonable" timeframe.

"The necessary condition to help Christopher's mission to succeed is to call on Israel to withdraw from the Golan immediately and rapidly according to a well-defined agenda," Tishrin wrote.

A Western diplomat described the remarks as positive. "The situation is going in the right direction and we are optimistic," he said.

However the diplomat ruled out a breakthrough in the near future. "The gap between the two sides has been narrowed since Mr. Christopher's last shuttle to the region two weeks ago but Israel and Syria are still wide apart."

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Parliamentary blocks and committees (Petra photo)

King meets deputies; urges constructive dialogue

underlined Jordan's principled

stands on challenges facing the country.

King Hussein called on the parliamentarians to continue their distinguished work in the fields of legislation and monitoring government performance, pointing to the importance of having well-defined relations among the executive, legislative and judicial authorities.

The King was briefed by parliamentarians on their views on various domestic issues and the democratisation process.

The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Abdal Salam Majali, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Chief Chamberlain Prince Raad Ben Zeid and the King's advisers.

King Hussein briefed the parliamentarians on the latest developments in the Middle East peace process and noted that Jordan was determined to achieve a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the region.

The King was briefed by parliamentarians on their views on various domestic issues and the democratisation process.

The King also underscored the need to establish democratic norms and the basis of constructive dialogue which would "enrich the march and enable it to achieve its noble

North Yemen claims fall of south's main air base, as fighting spreads

SA'NA (Agencies) — Northern troops Monday said they captured the south's main air base of Al Anad as Yemen's President Ali Abdullah Saleh ordered southern leaders to either surrender or flee the country to end the civil war.

Mr. Saleh's troops also opened a new front in the eastern oil province of Shabwa, as the south, facing a siege of its Aden stronghold, renewed calls for a ceasefire.

Al Anad, which controls a key highway leading to the port city, fell to the northern army, said the official news agency SABA, run by the north.

It quoted military sources as saying Mr. Saleh's troops were "mopping up the last pockets of the rebel forces in Al Anad base," around 60 kilometres

north of Aden.

"A unit of the (south's) 22nd brigade and around 100 members of the special guard of Ali Salem Al Beidi surrendered to the forces of unity and legality," SABA said.

More than 20,000 soldiers loyal to Mr. Beidi, the vice president and bitter rival of Mr. Saleh, were deployed in the base, according to southern military officials.

There was no independent confirmation of the fall of Al Anad, the second such claim in a week. But by the weekend, Saleh had captured the town of Dahr near the base.

The president, who has so far ruled out a ceasefire and is seeking a victory on the battlefield, ordered southern leaders "to surrender or to give a fair trial or to flee the country so as to avoid more bloodshed."

Despite the north's ruling out foreign mediation, the Arab mission's leader Mohammad Saeed Bayraqdar said the

league "stands ready at any time to play a role in helping to preserve Yemen's unity."

There has been no official casualty toll for the fighting, in which at least 175 Somalis refugees near Aden were killed.

Mr. Beidi, meanwhile, renewed the south's ceasefire offer, calling for implementation of Feb. 20 reconciliation deal he signed with Mr. Saleh in Amman.

"This situation on the battlefronts cannot be stabilised," he told a press conference. "We oppose the war but we will resist the invaders."

Northern ground forces, including tanks and heavy artillery, are trying to reach Aden in an encirclement movement from the north, along the San'a-Aden road, Zanjbar to the west, and Abyan to the east.

Palestinians take over nerve centre of occupation, Israel pledges to meet deadline

GAZA (R) — Israeli soldiers slipped out of Gaza Central Prison before dawn on Monday, handing over what had been the nerve centre of Israel's occupation of the Gaza Strip to a detachment of Palestinian police.

"This morning at about 3 a.m. the Israeli forces evacuated two buildings in Gaza City — (army) headquarters and the 'fridge,' names Palestinians gave to the small, murky rooms where they were held captive," an army spokeswoman said.

The two buildings had been the operational centre of Israel's 27-year-old occupation of Gaza's largest city.

"The prison will never be used in the same way as it was during the Israeli occupation," said Zakaria El Agha, an

appointee to the Palestinian authority, who spent the morning at the prison. "There will be no political prisoners."

Mr. Agha, who also heads PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's Fatah faction in Gaza, was held twice in the prison, in 1975 and 1988.

Other ex-prisoners wandered round the "slaughterhouse" the "bus" and the "fridge," names Palestinians gave to the small, murky rooms where they were held captive.

Exhausted Palestinian police from the Egyptian-based Ain Jalut Brigade bedded down in rooms inside the fortress, which Egypt also used as a prison during its administration of the strip before 1967.

Outside, dozens of street vendors set up stalls selling snacks and soft drinks to the crowds of Gazans who flocked to see the prison is Palestinian hands, and to look for relatives among the newly arrived police.

A spokesman for the observers, known as the Temporary International Presence in Hebron (TIPH), said the violence erupted as settlers leaving their settlement near the Tomb of the Patriarch fired at Palestinian youths. Spokesman Bjorn Soerensen said the settlers opened fire "in full view" of the observers.

Israel had already transferred Palestinian prisoners to other jails and many of the buildings were already empty.

Israel has emptied most of its bases in the Gaza Strip and Jericho in the past week. The handover is due to be completed by Wednesday.

Israel radio said the few facilities still controlled by the Israeli army would be evacuated by Monday night and a

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Arafat's bid to form strong self-rule authority gets support from opponents

AMMAN — Even though Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat has filled most of the slots for a new Palestinian authority to run the autonomous areas of Jericho and Gaza, he is still facing difficulties recruiting influential figures from the occupied territories.

Former chief negotiator Haidar Abdul Shafi, from Gaza and Abdul Hafiz Al Ashhab, from Hebron, have declined a new offer by the PLO leadership to take part in the 24-member Palestinian authority. Both have reportedly criticised the agreements reached with Israel and demanded reforms in the organisation.

According to various Palestinian sources, Dr. Ashhab would support efforts to form a strong authority but that she was bound by an earlier commitment as head of the independent Palestinian Commission for Human Rights.

But Mr. Arafat, who appears keen to include figures representing trends

other than his own Fatah faction and other loyalists, is said to have been approaching critics of the peace agreement with Israel to the hope of achieving a consensus over the structure of the authority.

Another important independent and critic of the PLO's handling of negotiations with Israel, Hanan Ashrawi, has declined participation 48 hours after the organisation named her to the list of members of the new authority.

Thus on Saturday, 48 hours after the PLO announcement, Dr. Ashrawi issued a carefully worded denial that included an appeal for qualified, strong and credible personalities to join the authority.

The appeal, made through Radio Monte Carlo, indicated that Dr. Ashrawi did not want to be directly involved but has concluded that

a strong authority was crucial for ensuring that self-rule will not reinstate Israeli occupation as many fear.

In a telephone interview with the Jordan Times, Dr. Ashrawi said from her house in Ramallah that since changing the terms of the agreement with Israel was not possible, Palestinians should focus on the nation-building process to achieve their national goals.

"The terms of agreement will not be changed. Therefore we have to create a new reality on the ground to attain our goals. We can only do that through participation," she said.

The agreement to implement Palestinian self-rule, signed in Cairo on May 4, has

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Kadoumi expected in Amman to sign economic deal

By Lamis K. Andoni
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Head of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Foreign Affairs Department Farouk Kadoumi is expected to arrive in Amman after Al Adha holiday to discuss next week, and probably sign "a plan of action" on Jordanian economic cooperation reached here last week.

The PLO leadership, however, has yet to officially endorse the plan that involves a joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee to coordinate the supervision and licensing of banks,

Hospital sources said eight Palestinians were shot and another beaten up.

Mr. Soerensen said his initial report that one Palestinian had been shot dead was wrong.

"We haven't seen that but our reports are that no one was killed," Mr. Soerensen said.

Palestinians said Arabs threw stones at about 30 armed Jewish settlers marching towards a mosque in the West Bank city, which has been tense as a settler massacred over 40 Muslim worshippers there on Feb. 25.

The settlers beat up two old men in their way and onlookers responded by throwing stones. The settlers opened fire, the Palestinians said. The army also stepped in, firing rubber bullets. At least nine Arabs were shot and wounded by both settlers and soldiers, hospital sources said.

Clashes continued in the evening with U.N. sources reporting a further five Arabs injured, one seriously.

After the initial clash, troops also shot eight Palestinian demonstrators, including a youth who was in serious condition with a bullet wound in the neck, hospital sources said.

The observer team, deployed in Hebron a week ago to bolster security for Palestinians in the wake of the mosque killings, was gathering eyewitnesses accounts, Mr. Soerensen said.

It was the worst incident in Hebron since the deployment of the 160-men force from Denmark, Italy and Norway.

lifts all customs between the two sides on agreed upon commodities.

The suggested committee, if approved, will give a consultative role for the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) regarding the supervision of all banks that deal with Jordan and in licensing new ones in the autonomous areas.

The committee will also enable the Palestinian authority to coordinate with the CBJ regarding banks in areas that still fall under Israeli jurisdiction, where the CBJ will still be the monetary authority in terms of licensing banks.

As the Palestinian authority

(Continued on page 5)

Court finds Jordan Times guilty of violating press law

Newspaper to appeal verdict

By Nermene Murad and Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporters

AMMAN — The Editor-in-Chief of the Jordan Times, George Hawatreh and reporter Sana Atiyeh, were found guilty Monday of violating two articles of the Press and Publications Law and were ordered to pay fines amounting to JD 600 in addition to court costs.

Defence lawyers took immediate steps to appeal the decision, which was taken by Amman's First Instance Court. The case would now go to the Court of Appeals, which can either uphold or overturn the decision, and later on can be heard by the Court of Cassation, the highest legal authority in the Kingdom.

The ruling was the culmination of a 4-week trial in which the Jordan Times stood accused of violating Articles 40/A/2 and 42 of the law, which was passed by the 11th Parliament and came into effect in

the middle of 1993.

The first article stipulates that publications are forbidden to print "news items, drawings or commentaries disparaging the armed forces or the security apparatus." Article 42 forbids "publishing transcripts of any case before the final verdict, except with court permission."

Both journalists had pleaded not guilty to the charges, which are punishable by a maximum fine of JD 1,000.

The trial began on April 18, several months after a legal complaint was sent by the head of the Press and Publications Department Mohammad Amin to Amman's public prosecutor, who in turn requested the trial. Mr. Amin initiated the charges over the paper's coverage of a state security court trial where 10 men were accused of plotting to assassinate His Majesty King Hussein and the charge sheet specifically referred to a report published

(Continued on page 5)

Middle East News

Iran says Saudi police deploy around haj HQ

NOCOSIA (Agencies) Iran said Saudi Arabia had deployed police around its pilgrimage (haj) headquarters in the Muslim holy city of Mecca, where Iranian pilgrims plan to hold a political rally in defiance of a Saudi ban.

"With only three days left for the annual rally against disbelievers in this holy city, the Saudi police have deployed two companies (of policemen) around the headquarters of the representative of the leader of the Islamic Revolution," the official Iranian news agency (IRNA) said.

Iran's charge could not be confirmed. Saudi Arabia usually deploys its police in the holy cities of Mecca and Medina during the haj, which attracts millions of Muslims every year.

Iran has also declared May 15 a day of solidarity with Bosnian Muslims for pilgrims gathered in Saudi Arabia and said donations would be collected from pilgrims.

But IRNA said Saudi Arabia's Minister for Pilgrimage Affairs and Endowments Mahmoud Ibn Mohammad Safar told Iranians not to collect money from other pilgrims for Bosnia.

"Saudi religious officials will ban such efforts," IRNA quoted Mr. Safar as saying in a note to Iran's haj officials.

Riyadh is a keen sup-

porter of Bosnian Muslims but has long said that the pilgrimage, which this year reaches its climax on May 20, is an occasion for worship and not political activity.

Saudi Arabia's Interior Minister Prince Nayef Ben Abdul Aziz reiterated last week the kingdom would enforce a ban on all political activities by pilgrims.

But Hojatoleslam Mohammad Mohammadi Rayshahi, Iran's top representative at the haj, said Iranian pilgrims would hold a rally in Mecca Tuesday denouncing what they see as Islam's enemies, despite the Saudi ban.

IRNA's report from Mecca said Saudi police "have been stationed with a water cannon and two armoured cars (outside the Iranian headquarters.)"

The agency said police had been posted in a school opposite the headquarters and two cameras installed on a building overlooking it. Police were keeping close watch on pilgrims throughout Mecca, even at prayers, IRNA said.

The police also prevented cars belonging to Iranian pilgrims and organisers from entering the camp's parking lot, "even those with diplomatic licence plates," IRNA said.

The siege followed the holding of a rally in the pilgrimage

quarter in solidarity with the Muslim people in Bosnia late Sunday, it said.

IRNA said that the Saudi police had taken down several Iranian flags placed on the roof of the pilgrimage quarter.

On Sunday, an Iranian religious organisation urged all Muslims making the pilgrimage in Mecca to defy a Saudi ban and take part in the demonstration.

"We call on all pilgrims, especially politically-aware Iranians, to take part in the demonstration as in previous years to foil the plots of enemies of Islam," the Islamic Propagation Organisation said in a statement.

The Mecca gathering is the "best opportunity and Mecca the best place for Muslims to express their hatred of the infidels, notably the United States and Israel,"

Mr. Reyshahi has told the pilgrims that holding the rally was a "religious must" and that everyone should participate.

More than 400 people, mostly Iranians, were killed at the 1987 haj when Saudi security forces clashed with an Iranian rally chanting slogans against the United States and Israel.

The bloodshed led to a break in relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia and a three-year Iranian boycott of the haj.

But a major government offensive launched at the end of last year seems to have become bogged down.

12 hurt in Turkish cinema blast

ANKARA (AFP) — A bomb attack Sunday on a cinema wounded 12 people, including six soldiers, in Elazig, southeastern Turkey, the Anatolia News Agency reported. A Russian-made explosive device was thrown inside the cinema premise where 140 people were watching a film, the agency said. Nobody immediately claimed responsibility for the attack. Police launched a search operation in the town to find the bombers. Three people were meanwhile wounded in an attack at Adana, some 110 kilometres (70 miles) from the Syrian border. It was not known who was behind the blast.

Sudan rebels, government open peace talks

NAIROBI (AFP) — Sudan's Islamic fundamentalist military government and mainly Christian southern rebels opened a new round of Kenyan-mediated peace talks in Nairobi Monday, Kenyan officials said.

Kenyan Foreign Minister Kalonzo Musyoka chaired the closed-door meeting between officials of the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) and the government, aimed at ending a conflict more than a decade old.

Khartoum's delegation, led by parliamentary speaker Mohammad Al Amin Khalifa, was to meet members of the SPLA's two rival factions in the latest of many negotiations organised by the six-member regional group, the Inter-governmental Authority on Drought and Development (IGADD).

by the Arab north 11 years ago.

Khartoum has taken advantage of a 1991 split in the rebel movement along tribal lines to recapture a string of garrison towns it had lost to the SPLA in the vast swamplands and savannah of the undeveloped south.

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Why Palestinian leaders are reluctant to join authority?

By Natasha Bukhari
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Nominees for the new Palestinian self-rule authority in Jericho and Gaza, though enthusiastic about the future are reluctant to assume the task, a PLO official said Monday.

"It is a difficult responsibility that requires a lot of work in light of the uncertainty of the situation in the self-rule areas," said the official who asked not to be named.

He added that the reluctance of some nominees to accept offers by the PLO to assume positions of authority in Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho was understandable as the task of members of the new Palestinian authority is "nothing to be envied for."

Aasaad Abdul Rahman, who was offered a position in the new Palestinian authority, told the Jordan Times that he has not yet made up his mind on whether or not to accept the offer.

"There is a very thin line between the enthusiasm I feel about the offer and the poli-

tical suicide I might be committing if I do accept," Dr. Abdul Rahman, who currently heads the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation said.

He said fear of political suicide stems from three "legitimate" reasons: the first was the "not-so-promising Israeli attitude."

The Palestinian right to self-determination does not seem to be a real concern for the Israelis and there are no guarantees that it will ever be," he explained.

The second reason for Dr. Abdul Rahman's reservations is his "lack of confidence in the ability of Western and international communities to convince Israel to ease the pressure off the Palestinians and help them accommodate their needs in the coming stage."

"Last but not least," he added, "I have my doubts about the Palestinians' competence in managing, organising and running the self-rule areas in a manner that would meet the expectations of people in the occupied territories."

Dr. Abdul Rahman said

that he realised that a decision on his part should be taken soon, but that before he makes any decision on the matter, he has to make "a clear cut evaluation of the whole situation."

Commenting on the reluctance of other Palestinians to be part of the new Palestinian authority, Ibrahim Quba'a, a member of the Palestine National Council (PNC), said that in many cases, personal interests rise above national ones. He said that it was every Palestinian's duty to participate in forming and serving the new authority.

"All competent politicians should help found the new authority, it is their duty towards their country," Mr. Quba'a said. Asked whether he would accept such an offer, he said that there were more qualified politicians for the job than he was, but that he will be willing to accept a counselling position in the authority.

Mr. Quba'a added that despite the refusal of very few people to assume leading positions in the future au-

thority, there are unqualified Palestinians seeking high power positions.

"I would suggest the opening of training centres for our unqualified young men who will eventually take over."

He said that to ensure a solid base for a competent authority, a scientific approach should be adopted. "We can train and teach our people the science of management of utilities exactly like we trained the police forces," he added.

Saleh Ra'fat, a member of the Palestinian Democratic Union (FIDA) said that some leading Palestinians had their political reasons for turning down the offer of participating in the new Palestinian self-rule authority. One such leader, according to Mr. Ra'fat, is Haidar Abdul Shafii, who led the Palestinian delegation to the Madrid and Washington talks with Israel.

"He (Dr. Abdul Shafii) agrees with Yasser Arafat's ruling methods," Mr. Ra'fat said.

FIDA has opposed the self-rule agreement signed in Cairo in May 4 called on the

Palestinian people to strive to eliminate the "restrictions imposed on them by the agreement," Mr. Ra'fat said.

He added that being part of the new Palestinian authority was one medium to do so and that they (FIDA) would like to see more of their members nominated for leading positions in the new authority.

Two FIDA officials, Yasir Abed Rabbo and Azmi Shuaibi, have been nominated for the new authority, but we are working on including at least one more FIDA official," Mr. Ra'fat said.

He said that he "respected" Hanan Ashrawi's decision to decline the appointment in the new authority in order to devote herself and her efforts to the Independent Palestinian Commission for Human Rights, to which she was recently elected as commissioner.

"It is only natural for Ms. Ashrawi to refuse the offer, for she has chosen the duty of monitoring the performance of the new authority," said Mr. Ra'fat.

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Home News

JORDAN TIMES, TUESDAY, MAY 17, 1994 3

"Although we all now have d'Azur time," said a radio operator Wednesday and "I guess Friday is not the right day another journalist."

After an hour's drive south we chugged back to haggle over the price to resume the top special permission port for a boat.

An earlier night, fearing we managed to be shore broadcas with its Somali language commonly used radio operation.

"They can see in throats can not money," said a man of a hour \$25,000 while to vince a college couple of drivers against it.

We set off after the drove Italian who were the work.

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By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter



MEETING: Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Monday chairs a meeting of the National Population Commission at the Queen Alia Fund for Social Development (QAF). Princess Basma expressed pride in the achievements of the commission, stressing that it actively contributes to the implementation of social and economic development plans through the information supplies to decision-makers. Chairman Khaled Ghazawi, who

Minister of Labour, expressed his thanks and appreciation to Princess Basma for her support for the commission's programmes and activities. Also at the meeting Commission Secretary General Nahib Salameh reviewed the working plans of the national population draft strategy and said that the project would be debated at three national seminars to be held in the Kingdom's three main regions: northern, central and southern Jordan (Petra photo)

JEA moves ahead

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) Director General Mohammad Arafah Monday briefed Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali on the steps being taken to convert the JEA from an autonomous authority into a commercial entity operating under the Companies Law.

On March 8, the JEA announced that the ministerial committee was preparing to undertake the transition in line with a recommendation by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.

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Delegates representing 35 Danish industrial firms along with investors and government officials will be taking part in the Oct. 16-20 meeting with Jordanian and Palestinian businesspersons and officials from the Jordanian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Mr. Kawar told the Jordan Times Monday.

The discussions will focus on prospects for joint ven-

th conversion plan

AMMAN (J.T.) — The JEA conversion is expected to avert routine which currently impedes the authority's functions and enable the new entity to be more competitive and engage other firms in energy production projects, added Mr. Arafah.

The JEA, he said, has also formulated terms of reference for local and international consultancy firms to help evaluate the electricity authority's assets before the transformation procedures can start. A select group of bidders will be invited to compete for the evaluation process, said Mr. Arafah.

At the meeting Monday, the prime minister reaffirmed the government's intent to encourage teamwork and creativity.

Dr. Majali also replied to questions concerning political and economic affairs and public administration reforms in Jordan.

With Denmark's vast experience and expertise in water, energy and food industries, Mr. Kawar said, it is hoped that the conference would result in Danish-Jordanian and Danish-Palestinian joint economic ventures through their respective private sectors.

On his last visit to Jordan in late March, Mr. Wittenkamp discussed plans for the conference with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, who welcomed the idea, added Mr. Kawar.

In April 1987, a similar delegation visited Jordan and its 28 members held talks with Jordanian businessper-

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Many of her paintings are

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But a few of her studies,

mainly her landscapes of coun-

try sides and forests were

obviously more hastily ren-

dered than the rest of her

stronger and more full-

bodied works, and detracted

The multimedia works of Hreib and Al Mashaiki

By Ian Atalia
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Two Arab women artists, employing very different forms of art media and sharply contrasting styles and focus have put their works on display at the Ain Art Gallery in Amman in a two-woman show.

Tab Hreib, from Syria, paints with watercolours using a broad, impressionistic style.

"I almost always paint the scenery and landscapes in and around Damascus," she says, "although I've done a few paintings on trips I took to Tunisia and China."

She explains that when she sits down to paint, she does not rely on outward observations and details, but focuses instead on "my inner impressions of a scene, and the emotions and memories which are stirred by it."

For instance, she says, her

paintings of houses built row-

above-row on a hillside at

Jabal Qa'oun were not done

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from her overall presentation.

The second artist, Sajeda Al Mashaiki, of Iraq, works in ceramics and blends a starkly avant-garde style with traditional Arabic folk themes and motifs, such as a blindfolded bedouin bride who awaits her marriage ceremony.

The exhibition is scheduled

to last until the end of May.

Her plaques and pottery

leave a strange impression on the viewer as surreal, abstract faces pop out at him between carpet-like ceramic folds.

"It's my work, I employ a lot of bedouin symbols and folklore," she says, although some of her pottery works are purely modern in form and theme.

The exhibition is scheduled

to last until the end of May.

Painting by Itab Hreib

Somewhat from her overall presentation.

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to last until the end of May.

Her plaques and pottery

Fresh fish prices soar on local market Seafood shipments from war-torn Yemen halted

AMMAN (J.T.) — The ongoing conflict in Yemen has resulted in the stoppage of fresh fish shipments to Jordan from that country and a near doubling in the prices of fresh fish in the Kingdom's local markets.

The Ocean Fish Centre, a major fish distributor, said most fresh fish supplies used to be flown in from Yemen, but since the airports there have been closed, the centre has received no shipments for the past two weeks. The result, said the centre's owner, has

been a price hike on fresh fish from JD3-3.5 a kilo to JD7-8 a kilo.

Orders of air shipments of fresh fish from Pakistan and Oman are expected this week, said the proprietor, who added that he expects the prices to go down slightly.

He said his centre used to receive up to two tonnes of Yemeni fish per week for distribution to various fish markets in the country.

Meanwhile, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported that the Ministry of Agricul-

ture Monday issued a call on neighbouring Arab states to allow Jordanian fishermen to fish in their territorial waters to help the Kingdom meet its growing demand for seafood.

The call was made by Mohammad Abbadi of the ministry's Livestock Wealth Department who said that last year the Kingdom's total fresh and frozen fish imports amounted to 16,000 tonnes.

Jordan also imported 3,292 tonnes of canned fish and 430 tonnes of smoked and dried fish last year because of insufficient catches at Aqaba and the country's rivers and streams, Dr. Abbadi said.

Fishing in Aqaba, Dr. Abbadi said, is very limited because of restrictions in the regional territorial water zone, intensive shipping activities in the harbour which deter the presence of fish, the security situation and the ban on night fishing.

Fishing in the country's rivers and dams takes place at random and catches are not registered but are estimated to be 350 tonnes annually.

according to Dr. Abbadi.

He explained that insufficient water supplies and unstable weather conditions negatively affect the life of fishing ponds.

Dr. Abbadi estimated the total fish production in the country's ponds at 60 tonnes only.

He urged the concerned authorities to work with the Ministry of Agriculture to set up an integrated fish research station to improve the quality of fish and help in fish breeding in water surfaces.

Mini bus accident injures 19

AMMAN (J.T.) — A mini bus carrying 19 passengers crashed into a valley on the side of the Irbid-Jerash Road Sunday causing some injuries but no deaths, according to a report on Jordan Television Monday evening.

A traffic police officer said the bus driver was speeding and lost control of the vehicle when it passed around a bend. The bus hit the side of the hill, then overturned and fell into the valley below, the officer said.

According to the report most passengers were injured, but the majority have been discharged from Princess Basma Hospital, others were still undergoing treatment Monday evening.

When asked about the need to expand the plant's capacity, Dr. Malhas said that the plant is supposed to

Ministry to expand waste water treatment plant

By Elia Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Ministry of Health will this summer start implementing a \$35 million project to expand the Khirbet Al Samra Waste Water Treatment Plant and install special chemical units to absorb the foul odours emitted from the plant and polluting the atmosphere, Health Minister Abdul Rahim Malhas said Monday.

The foul odours from the Khirbet Al Samra plant, located to northeast of Hashemieh town, together with the poisonous fumes emitted by the thermal power station to the southeast, the foul smell from the sheep and cattle farms in the north of the town, the insects and mosquitoes in the swamps of the Zarqa stream and the chemical substances emitted from the Jordan Petroleum

treat 69,000 cubic metres of waste water daily, but in reality it is taking 130,000 cubic metres from Amman, Zarqa and Hashemieh.

This means that much of the water coming out of the plant requires additional treatment to prevent the malodorous emissions and ensure the fitness of the water for the

Features

By Rami G.

ning

majority of Palestinians in the country rather than Russia, Arab or an F.W. de Klerk-type of economic process, the heavy-handed style of the former Soviet Union generate income sufficient to some degree in order to enjoy degrees of social order and

democracy but failing, ignoring and legislative institutions acquiesce in the concerned about engaging in the more Palestinian social cause, favouring a slow, conservative process underway, tribal and patriotic within a loose confederal and erratic official and erratic

enjoy international status who usually prefer to give their democratic than democratic with Arab and a Palestine that security than on the tie democracy — and profits, and

Palestinian self-government determined by the forces of political not as a special place is a foreign imperialist use of the original to build a state who would be satisfied with traditionalism and

Palestinians and others

on of democracy, the realistic and reconstructive reckoning, autocratic decisions price can has to pay for its history has dealt with the decency in our society; and this, in fact, I am convinced, is

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i Suffer

it time to end the fight to shift the responsibility from the U.S. leadership will not be able to do so. (Jordan Times) (Continued from page 1)

opened up U.N. space

Khaddoumi expected in Amman

(Continued from page 1)

extended its jurisdiction to other Palestinian areas, its role will be more dominant than that of the CBJ in the committee. The question that political analysts raise, and the two sides refrain from commenting on, is whether the joint committee will be an interim body, pending the consolidation of the Palestinian authority or a permanent nucleus for future Jordanian-Palestinian merger.

Information available suggests that the draft agreement strengthens the engagements between the Jordanian and Palestinian economies, especially in areas that involve steps to boost the circulation of the Jordanian dinar and customs-free exchange of many major commodities, such as Jordanian oil byproducts and cement.

The draft agreement, also

includes a Jordanian proposal

that the Palestinian side open a credit account in the Central Bank of Jordan to settle payments for goods imported from the Kingdom. The Jordanian side will be ready to open a similar credit account at the Palestinian monetary authority once it is established.

But perhaps the major elements in the plan of action include assurances by the Palestinians ensuring that measures could undermine the stability of the Jordanian dinar will be taken.

One of the commitments,

according to Palestinian sources, is that the Palestinian monetary authority will not

coordinate with the CBJ prior to taking any steps to phase out the Jordanian dinar, in case the Palestinians

are unable to do so.

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Economy

Arabs make slow progress in industry

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Arab states have made slow progress in their long-standing efforts to build an industrial base to lessen reliance on oil and cut a huge import bill, official reports showed Monday.

While the oil sector has steadily declined over the past decade, non-oil industries have lightly in some states while they receded in others due to lack of investment and political instability.

The Abu Dhabi-based Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) and other official institutions said the per capita share of total industrial production fell from \$80 in 1992, from \$80, mainly due to a price rise.

The share of the non-oil industry rose to \$212 from \$160 after the same period.

The workforce in the Arab industrial sector has grown by around four per cent per year over the past decade to reach 12 million, but the oil price decline lowered per capita productivity to \$9,545 from \$14,246 per year.

A report by the Organisa-

tion of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries showed that non-oil industries remained far smaller than the oil sector in terms of value added, the difference between output and goods consumed in output.

It said the value added in extractive industries, which include oil and mining, stood at \$101 billion in 1992 and its share in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) reached 21 per cent.

Value added in non-oil industries stood at \$45 billion and share of GDP at around 10 per cent.

"Industries intended to replace imports rather than destined for exports have remained the main element in the Arab industrial sector except for petrochemicals, refining and minerals," the AMF said.

The report showed Arab non-oil industrial exports have also steadily grown but remained much lower than the initial stages.

The report showed Arab non-oil industrial exports have also steadily grown but remained much lower than the initial stages.

In embargo-hit Iraq, the value added jumped from \$4.9 billion to \$7.4 billion, the report said, without explaining.

as building materials, foodstuffs, clothes and textile, chemicals, home appliances, paper and spare parts.

Cement emerged as the biggest productive sector in those industries, with the Arab League's 22 members having around 105 plants with an output capacity of nearly 99 million tonnes per year.

Steel production, mostly in Egypt, Morocco, Algeria and Saudi Arabia, stood at 10 million tonnes per year.

The non-oil industrial sector has steadily grown over the past years but the growth was weak and fluctuating," the AMF said. "Productivity has also remained relatively small as such a sector is still in the initial stages."

The report showed Arab non-oil industrial exports have also steadily grown but remained much lower than the initial stages.

White exports jumped from \$1.3 billion in 1975 to \$21.6 billion in 1992, industrial imports surged from \$14 billion to \$62.3 billion.

China sets battle plan against rising jobless rate

BEIJING (R) — China, facing the prospect of millions of urban workers thrown out of their jobs by economic reform, is scrambling to open its employment market in the hope of keeping the urban jobless rate below three per cent.

Vice Labour Minister Zhu Jiazheng said new policies would allow private companies to set up employment services and would offer them tax exemptions and priority bank loans if at least 60 per cent of their jobs go to the unemployed or the laid-off, the official China Daily said Monday.

The government will also allow employment companies to experiment with the shareholding system to make them more flexible and responsible to market demands, he said.

"One of the best ways to control unemployment is to give full play to the service industries irrespective of their ownership," Mr. Zhu was quoted as saying.

Urban unemployment is one of Beijing's biggest headaches because it dismembers the "iron rice bowl" system of socialist cradle-to-grave employment in the state sector.

Forced to become competitive in the market, many large state firms are beginning to slash their payrolls and cut benefits. Worker anger over dwindling state job prospects has already broken out in several cases of open unrest.

Rural migrants also complicate the employment picture, packing China's cities and grabbing temporary jobs as

construction workers, household helpers and odd-job specialists.

China's official unemployment figures, which diplomats say are skewed to the low end and do not count rural migrants, report urban unemployment at 2.4 per cent in 1992.

The government's target this year is to keep it below three per cent.

"Urban unemployment is expected to top five million this year," the China Daily said.

"During the first quarter of the year, inflation hit 20.1 per cent, resulting in an increase in the level of unemployment in Chinese cities. This trend is worrying the government."

Mr. Lee said ASEAN, which also comprises Brunei, Singapore and Thailand,

New Malawi government faces poverty and unemployment time bombs

BLANTYRE (AFP) — Poverty and rising unemployment are seen here as political time bombs ready to explode in the face of a government which will assume power in this tiny south-eastern African country after Tuesday's general elections.

Official statistics say about six million of the country's 10 million people live below the poverty line, while fewer than one million of a potential 4.5 million workforce are gainfully employed.

The common feature of the Malawi poor is their inability to meet their minimum nutritional requirements and essential non-food needs equivalent to \$40 per capita per annum," says a government report re-

leased recently.

"The unemployment problem is extremely acute," says Michael Heyn, resident coordinator of the United Nations in Malawi.

Impoverished Malawi, with a per capita gross domestic product (GDP) of about \$210, needs to create 400 new jobs every day if it is to stabilise the unemployment problem.

"Those who get employed do so in low productivity jobs in small-scale agriculture and informal micro-enterprises," Mr. Heyn said.

The formal sector absorbs less than 10 per cent of the newcomers to the labour force every year.

Western donors say Malawi's poverty and social indica-

tors are its low life expectancy and adult literacy levels. Life expectancy is 48 years in Malawi, compared to the average 52 years for sub-Saharan Africa.

Infant and child mortality rates, says Mr. Heyn, "remain unacceptably high." One in four children dies before its fifth birthday and 50 per cent of children under five suffer from chronic malnutrition.

Economists here estimate the adult literacy rate at 39 per cent against an average 47 for the sub-Saharan Africa.

An economist said only 29 per cent of Malawian women are literate. Women make up 52 per cent of the country's total population, which is rising at three per cent per annum, rated by the World

Bank as the fastest in the region.

The opposition blames President Kamuzu Banda's government for economic woes.

The leader of the Alliance for Democracy (AFORD), trade unions and a presidential candidate in the forthcoming elections, Chakufwa Chikwanda, says unemployment runs at 30 per cent because of lack of political commitment and misallocation of resources.

He said some redundant ministries created to accommodate some politicians and unproductive staff at the country's 19 embassies throughout the world run on a total annual budget of 60 million kwacha (\$9 million) were a waste of resources, at the expense of

poor Malawians.

Mr. Chikwanda often attacks Mr. Banda for his lavish lifestyle of building several palaces instead of improving ordinary Malawians' lives.

"How can one person with no child or wife have 13 state houses," he says of President Banda, adding that it takes about \$3 million to maintain the palaces every year.

Independent economists say Mr. Banda controls 40 per cent of Malawi's economy through his personal Press Holdings company.

Most parties here, including Mr. Banda's ruling Malawi Congress Party, often avoid the issue of unemployment but are quick to promise the electorate that they will attract

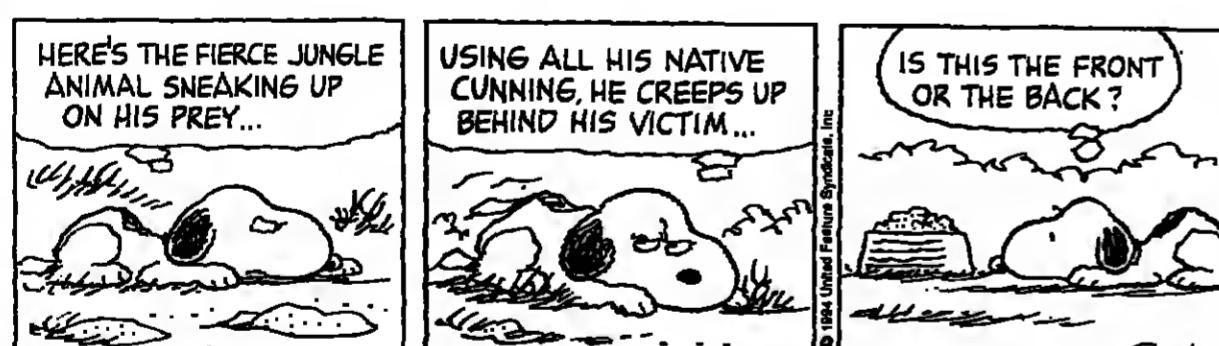
investment — which will in turn create employment.

Agriculture, the mainstay of the country's economic growth, provides employment and subsistence for the country's majority population, but the World Bank representative here warned that this narrow resource base makes the economy more vulnerable to world market prices and other external shocks.

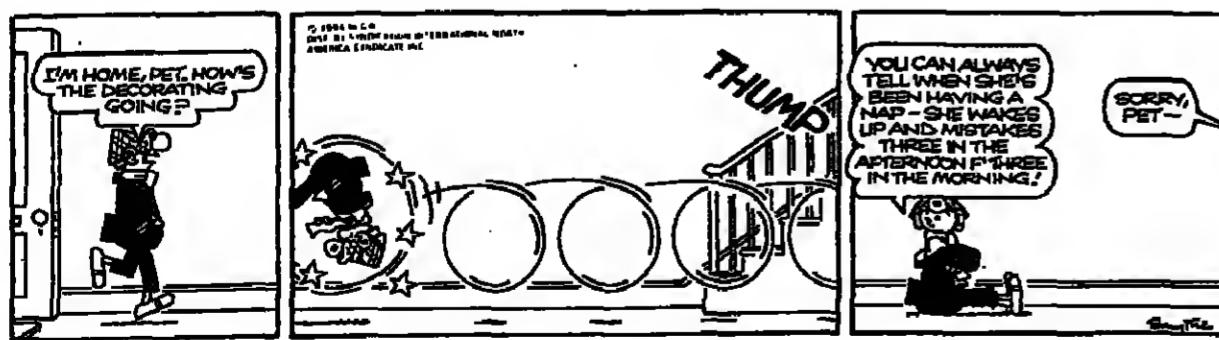
World Bank's Arif Zulfiqar said: "Clearly, the odds are stacked against Malawi," warning that if Malawi did not work hard, it would risk being overtaken by its neighbours.

"Unemployment and poverty will be Malawi's sticky issues for any government," a political analyst said here.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



Russia's premier wants continued tight policy

LONDON (R) — Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin has pledged in an article to continue tight money and credit policies despite having reached "the trough of the crisis" in his country's economic transformation.

In an article written for Monday's Financial Times, Mr. Chernomyrdin said these policies had brought inflation down to 10 per cent monthly between February and April, and should cut it to between seven and eight per cent a month by the end of 1994.

"To achieve this goal, we must adopt the most resolute measures aimed at limiting the budget deficit and the emission of credits," he added.

Economic reform, including a change in tax rates to increase state revenues, has been carried out against a background of a drop in output in the first quarter of 1994 of

about 25 per cent compared with the same period last year, Mr. Chernomyrdin wrote.

But the Russian prime minister said the government continued its tight monetary policy. The drop in production did not and would not deflect the government from its course, he said.

Mr. Chernomyrdin dismissed pressure from ministers for an increase in spending, saying all the cabinet understood a strong ruble was essential for a revival of the Russian economy.

"Our common task is thus clear to ensure that Russian citizens should know that everything their government does is directed to protect the purchasing power of the rouble," Mr. Chernomyrdin wrote.

But the prime minister said it was possible to break out of

the crisis and start on the road to economic revival.

"We are now living through the trough of the economic crisis. In the next few months, we can make a break from the basic negative tendencies which have held back our development in the past two or three years," he added.

Mr. Chernomyrdin said he did not foresee mass factory closures and a sharp rise in the unemployment rate, which he said would sharply worsen the political and social situation in Russia.

Instead, he outlined an action plan for industrial change.

The plan divides businesses into three categories those which are adapting well, those which have the potential to adapt but need state help to do so and those that are hopeless and should be closed down.

But Mr. Chernomyrdin said

the third group would only be closed down when there was a safety net for those thrown out of work.

Mr. Chernomyrdin said the government was working with Western financial institutions to try to direct financial credits towards resolving social problems.

Mr. Chernomyrdin said links with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which earlier this year advanced the second tranche of a \$3 billion loan in return for commitments to market reform, showed Russia's new openness on economic matters.

"We believe that the agreement with the IMF will lay a good foundation for our talks with the Paris and London clubs on the restructuring of the former debt of Russia which we inherited from the Soviet Union," he wrote.

Asian ministers reject linking trade and rights

SINGAPORE (R) — ASEAN ministers Monday renewed attacks on the West for trying to link workers' rights with trade, saying the move could undermine free trade and hurt poor nations' economies.

Singapore Deputy Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) should resist moves to insist on what he called unreasonable labour standards which ignored the needs of the developing states.

"We cannot make changes to suit other's standards," Mr. Lee said at the opening of a two-day meeting of labour ministers from the six countries that make up ASEAN.

Labour practices in several Asian countries, including ASEAN members Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines, are scheduled to undergo scrutiny at an International Labour Organisation meeting in Geneva next month.

Malaysia's Human Resources Minister Lim Ah Lek told the meeting that using trade and market access as new levers to force compliance with Western-defined labour standards was a dangerous trend.

Row clouds future of African bank

NAIROBI (R) — The future of the African Development Bank (AFDB) has been clouded by rows over financing, loan policy and attempts to topple its president that marred the 30th anniversary meeting, delegates said Monday.

Western donors at last week's summit in Kenya's capital Nairobi refused to pledge \$2.6 billion to replenish AFDB's soft loans fund because they were unhappy with allocation policies put forward by some African countries.

Creditor nations also said they were alarmed at the mounting arrears on loans given by the bank which now total more than \$700 million, economists said.

ASEAN officials said the West's newest weapons was a proposal for a world minimum wage, put forward during the final round of talks under the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs.

Malaysia's Human Resources Minister Lim Ah Lek told the meeting that using trade and market access as new levers to force compliance with Western-defined labour standards was a dangerous trend.

Donors say only countries with per capita incomes of over \$1,054 per year should be regarded as acceptable credit risks.

Countries with per capita income of \$543 or less would be able to borrow only from the soft-loan fund. At present these economies have access to bank loans.

States with per capita income between the two figures would be able to turn to both the bank and the fund, the donors propose.

The AFDB's new chairman Kalu Idika Kalu told Reuters representatives of African countries and non-African members would meet again, probably in June or July, to try to resolve the dispute.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY MAY 17, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES:

Associates are likely to be demanding today so to appear cooperative with them and avoid arguments that are related to long standing unresolved concerns that are lurking on the back burner.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Study your property for needed repairs. Also study how to add to present assets. Make the evening a happy one for you and loved ones.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Plan how to gain whatever appeals to you the most, and then carry through in a positive way. Take it easy tonight and rest quietly.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You must plan early if you wish to gain your particular aims and then go after them in a precise manner which will benefit you greatly.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Talk over with good friends ways to gain your finest aims. A new plan needs more study to be successful to those in charge.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Morning is best time for handling any credit affairs of importance. Be precise in handling important business matters.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) A good day to study new ways of advancing in your career. Confer with associates and plan the future wisely for better ways to progress.

THE Daily Crossword

by Diane C. Baldwin



Bosnian rivals fight on; diplomats press for peace

SARAJEVO (R) — Bosnian forces clash around the city of Tuzla Monday and the U.N. reported a Muslim build-up in central Bosnia despite new diplomatic efforts to halt a war that has killed 200,000 and displaced almost two million people.

European Union ministers met in Brussels to discuss the latest Bosnia peace plan adopted by foreign ministers of the United States, Russia and the EU in Geneva Friday and a Russian envoy went to Belgrade to explain it to the Serbs.

In Sarajevo, Muslim-led forces fired on a Swedish U.N. convoy Sunday near a tense confrontation line on overlooking Mount Igman, U.N. Protection Force spokesman Roh Annink said.

The Bosnian Serb News Agency (SRNA) reported a Muslim infantry and artillery attack on the Olovo-Kladanj front which dominates a vital Bosnian army supply line to Tuzla Monday.

It also reported continued attacks on the Majevica front which overlooks the Tuzla region and around Doboj and Teslic.

Croatian Radio reported increased Serb-Muslim fighting in the 40 kilometres area around Tuzla and pinpointed the worst clashes around Brigu-

la, south of the U.N.-designated safe area.

Three slammed into the city centre Sunday evening, with two hitting a hotel but causing no casualties. Maj. Annink said a total of 34 shells hit north of Tuzla airport.

A British Scimitar light tank destroyed a Serb bunker near Maglaj Sunday after U.N. peacekeepers came under fire, Maj. Annink said. The Serb post had been "a problem for British peacekeepers in the area for several weeks," he said.

UNPROFOR spokesman in Sarajevo Eric Chaperon confirmed earlier reports from Vitez on a Bosnian Muslim army buildup near Turbe in central Bosnia over the past week.

U.N. sources said 10 Muslim-led Bosnian army brigades have moved into the area, facing off against two Serb brigades, and have restricted U.N. movement in the area.

The Muslim brigades are often no bigger than a western battalion of about 600 men and considerably smaller than their Serb counterparts.

Muslims were reported also reinforcing the sensitive area of Mount Igman overlooking Sarajevo and UNPROFOR told reporters. "We're going to

describe the development as "profoundly disturbing."

UNPROFOR planned to set up an observation post south of Igman and to increase patrols there to try and defuse tensions between Serb and Muslim-led forces, Maj. Annink said.

Serbs withdrew from Igman under threat of NATO air strikes and on condition that the area was demilitarised.

Against this tense backdrop, European foreign ministers met in Brussels Monday to decide how they can help ensure that last week's Bosnia peace accord will succeed.

It will be the first time that all 12 EU countries have been given full details of Friday's agreement in Geneva between the world's big power on a joint peace strategy.

Although both the Muslim-led Bosnian government and the Bosnian Serbs both publicly criticised the big powers' call for a four-month truce, EU ministers said the attempt had to be made to achieve an end to hostilities.

Mr. Churkin warned this ratio was not negotiable. "We are not going to negotiate the percentage with the parties. 51-49, and that goes for all the parties to the conflict, not only to Bosnian Serbs but also to the Muslims and to the Croats."

UNPROFOR sources in Zagreb said Mr. Akashi was expected to visit Sarajevo for ceasefire talks in next few days, most probably Wednesday.



MISS PHOTOGECIC: Minorka Mercado of Venezuela smiles after she was chosen Miss Photogenic at the 1994 Miss Universe pageant. The 22-year-old university student from Caracas who stands six feet and two inches receives a \$1,000 cash prize. The 1994 Miss Universe will be chosen from the 77 candidates on May 21 (AFP photo)

U.K. 'house of horror' wife charged with sixth murder

GLOUCESTER, England (Agencies) — The wife of accused "house of horror" serial killer Frederick West has been charged with a sixth joint murder with her husband, police said Monday.

A spokesman said Rosemary West, 40, would face the new murder charge at her next appearance in court scheduled for June 3. Mr. West, a 52-year-old builder who has been charged with 11 murders of young women, was next due in court on June 2.

The spokesman said the new charge related to Juanita Mott, aged 18, who vanished in 1975. Her body was one of nine exhumed by police from the Wests' home at 25 Cromwell Street, dubbed the "house of horror" by media, since the end of February.

Police involved in what threatens to be Britain's largest serial murder investigation in recent history dug up a 10th

body from a field northwest of Gloucester, western England, and an 11th set of remains was exhumed from another house in Gloucester that Mr. West lived in during the early 1970s.

One of the charges against Rosemary West concerns the murder of Heather West, her and West's daughter, who went missing in 1987 at the age of 16.

Nine of the bodies were found buried in the garden, basement, walls and floors of the house in Crownwell Street.

Police said they were still searching, and sources say the total body count could exceed 20.

In addition to the six joint murder counts against Rosemary West, she is also charged with complicity with two others in the rape of an 11-year-old girl, and with the sexual abuse of an eight-year-old body.

Nigeria rulers face showdown with pro-democracy group

LAGOS (R) — Nigeria's military rulers appear on a collision course with a new alliance that has given them two weeks to hand over to Moshood Abiola, undeclared winner of last June's annulled presidential election.

The new group, the National Democratic Coalition (NADECO), includes former presidential hopefuls and ex-military officers. It did not say what it would do if the military ignored its ultimatum.

"The National Democratic Coalition hereby demands the actualisation of the June 12 mandate," said the group, referring to last June's election, which was annulled after results placed millionaire Abiola well ahead of his sole rival.

"We are looking at a potentially explosive situation," one politician said at the weekend. "Nobody seizes power to give to someone else and this move is bound to lead to clashes which no one can say where it will lead us."

General Sam Abacha, the latest in a long line of military figures to run Nigeria, seized power in November during the crisis triggered by the election annulment.

Cambodia's Ranariddh backs foreign military aid

PHNOM PENH (Agencies) — Thai criticism of Cambodia's request for foreign military aid for its army is interference in the internal affairs of another country, First Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh said Monday.

"What the government has to do is stick absolutely firmly to its existing policy and give no hint or sign of a change in policy," Mr. Trimble said.

He described the IRA, which has waged a violent 25-year campaign to oust Britain from Northern Ireland, as trying to "trap and entice" the government into negotiations.

"We must not have any element of negotiation. Once the government gets on to that slippery slope, it will be lost," Mr. Trimble warned.

British officials said Northern Ireland Secretary Sir Patrick Mayhew was likely to answer the 16 questions, relayed to London by Dublin last Friday, later this week.

Although Sir Patrick has insisted he will not negotiate with Sinn Fein until Irish Republican Army (IRA) guerrillas lay down their arms, pro-British Protestant politicians expressed concern that Prime Minister John Major's government might soften its line.

"There does appear to be active animosity between various groups, 'self-defence' groups still running round with AK-47 rifles. It's not going to be an ongoing situation, but it is worrying at this particular stage," he said.

Violence is one of the urgent problems facing President Nelson Mandela's ANC-led government of national unity which is still settling in after taking office last week.

Thailand would be seriously affected as the weapons supplied to Cambodia would be put on sale along the Thai border by ill-disciplined Cambodian government troops in need of money," he said.

"What Cambodia needs is humanitarian assistance for its people, which would help bring lasting peace to the country and the region," he said.

Prince Ranariddh said Thailand had provided arms to the Khmer Rouge guerrilla faction and was now telling Cambodia it should not accept offers of foreign military aid.

Australia, France and the United States are considering a formal request to help train and equip the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces.

Thailand's National Security Council chief, General Charan Kullavanijaya, criticised Mr. Reynolds's go-between role as unhelpful.

"This high-profile intervention in the affairs of Northern Ireland is going to be deeply misunderstood in Northern Ireland. I think he has a part to play, no doubt, but it should be done behind the scenes," Mr. Cran told the BBC.

And in published comments Monday, Thai Army Commander General Wimol Wongwanich said military aid for Cambodia was not the solution.

Asked if the Cambodian government was still prepared to attend peace talks with the Khmer Rouge, Prince Ranariddh said the government was always ready to discuss national reconciliation.

Prince Ranariddh said it was

JORDAN TIMES, TUESDAY, MAY 17, 1994

IAEA team in Beijing en route to N. Korea

BELING (Agencies) — A three-member inspection team from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) arrived for a stopover in Beijing Monday en route for a key visit to a suspected nuclear bomb factory in North Korea, diplomats said.

The delegation, which will spend a day in China before leaving for Pyongyang, is headed by Olli Heinonen of Finland, with Vladimir Rakhid, a Russian, and Jamaluddin Omar, a Tanzanian, they said.

The three will leave Beijing Tuesday afternoon aboard a North Korean airliner.

North Korea announced Saturday that it was beginning to replace fuel rods at the Yongbyon nuclear site, 90 kilometers (54 miles) north of Pyongyang, without the presence of IAEA monitors.

The IAEA, the United Nations' nuclear watchdog, has insisted on viewing the operation, saying it is vital for checking suspicions about North Korea's nuclear programme. According to the United States, the procedure could free up enough plutonium for at least four nuclear bombs.

The inspectors, who took part in a previous IAEA mission to North Korea in March, are scheduled to return to China on May 24.

But the agency's spokesman, David Kyd, said Sunday that "if the reports (of the refuelling) turn out to be correct, the inspectors will be immediately recalled to Vienna."

Meanwhile the White House Chief of Staff Thomas "Mack" McLarty said that the United States needed more data before responding to a reported North Korean breach of nuclear safeguards.

Mr. McLarty, appearing on the CBS programme Face the Nation, said the administration would wait until the IAEA inspectors returned from Korea before seeking possible economic sanctions.

"If that (IAEA) report is not what it should be then we will consider all of our options, including sanctions," he said. "But right now we simply need more information about this very concerning matter."

South Korean officials said Saturday that the North had begun withdrawing spent fuel from a nuclear reactor without international inspectors present, an action that Washington has said should lead to sanctions.

North Korea, in turn, has said that it would regard sanctions as an act of war.

The immediate focus of concern is the removal of plutonium-packed fuel rods from the five-megawatt reactor at North Korea's Yongbyon complex, 60 miles north of Pyongyang. Inspection of the rods would help gauge how much weapons-grade plutonium North Korea may have been secretly siphoned off.

The majority view among U.S. intelligence analysts is that the North has already diverted enough plutonium from reactor fuel withdrawing in 1989 to make one or two nuclear bombs.

On Friday, Secretary of Defense William Perry said the fuel reportedly being removed this time contained enough plutonium to make another four or five nuclear bombs.

Clint Eastwood gets French arts award

CANNES, France (AFP) — Veteran U.S. film star Clint Eastwood, the president of this year's Cannes festival jury, was awarded the French Nations' Order of Arts and Letters here Sunday. French Culture Minister Jacques Toubon bestowed the award on Eastwood in a ceremony also attended by Federico Mayor, secretary general of UNESCO, reminding the actor-turned-director that he first came to fame in Europe. Mr. Toubon thanked Eastwood for "the pleasure you have given us in cinema" and noted: "It was in Europe that Clint Eastwood first became popular, thanks to the films of Sergio Leone, before becoming a big star in his own country."

Boy saves toddler from blaze

BATON ROUGE, Louisiana (AFP) — An 11-year-old boy dashed into a blazing apartment and rescued a two-year-old boy who had been left unsupervised, police said. The boy hero said he simply ran in and grabbed the toddler, ignoring what the Boy Scouts taught him — to crawl under thick smoke. "I thought it would take me too long if I had crawled," said Jason Dent, who was alerted by screaming in the upstairs apartment of his building Thursday night. Six youngsters — the oldest was six — had been left alone in their apartment when the two-year-old began playing with matches and set fire to a book, police said. Two mothers, one of whom was having a birthday, had each left their three children in the apartment and gone out to celebrate, police said. Both women were booked Friday and charged with child desertion.

China inaugurates world's largest reclining Buddha

HONG KONG (AFP) — The world's biggest reclining Buddha will be officially inaugurated on a hill in China's Guangdong province Wednesday. The 16-metre (52-foot) high-and-108-metre (356-foot) long statue will be blessed by officials of the Buddhist Association of China and Tibetan Buddhist Association in Sanzhi City, 40 kilometers (25 miles) west of Guangzhou. The hill in the southern province was chosen because local Buddhist religions records claim a monk had a vision of Buddha there, according to local Chinese press reports. The Sanzhi authorities have developed the site into a nature reserve.

Whitney Houston set to star as Cinderella

LOS ANGELES (R) — Whitney Houston is set to follow her role in the hit movie The Bodyguard by starring in an updated TV movie version of Rodgers Hammerstein's Cinderella. Hollywood trade paper daily Variety reported in its Monday edition that the Grammy Award-winning singer would begin taping her world tour this summer. It is expected to air by the end of the 1994-95 season. A top writer will be hired to redraft the music, and the paper said other Rodgers and Hammerstein songs might be added. Cinderella, with music by Richard Rodgers and lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein, first aired on CBS in 1957, drawing an audience of 100 million viewers for Julie Andrews. CBS remade it in 1965 with Lesley Ann Warren, airing that production annually until 1972.

Cash machine sting nets crooks £250,000

LONDON (R) — Crooks used a stolen cash dispensing machine set up in a fake finance shop to steal £250,000 (£374,400) in a high-tech swindle, a British newspaper said Monday. The cash dispenser, ripped out of its legitimate location using a mechanical shovel and a fork-lift truck, was installed in a shop in London's Bethnal Green district painted to look like an advice Centre for home loans, the Sun Tafford reported. The crooks wired up the machine to copy the personal codes of credit card holders who tried to get money out of it. They then used the numbers to take money out of the cardholders' accounts at other cash points.

To the north, the Marxist guerrilla faction claimed to have occupied Sankum Thmei district in Preah Vihear province in fighting on May 14. The Sun said police estimated the thieves took more than £40,000 (\$59,900) a week for six weeks until they were caught.

Sports

JORDAN TIMES, TUESDAY, MAY 17, 1995

Bulls get it together to level series 2-2

CHICAGO, Illinois (Agencies) — The three-time defending champion Chicago Bulls pulled themselves together to post a 95-83 victory over New York Sunday, evening their best-of-seven series in the National Basketball Association (NBA) playoffs.

Mr. Chernomyrdin, government with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), said this year advanced a tranche of a \$3 billion return for currency market reform, despite the new economic matters.

"We believe that a meeting with the IMF, good foundation for the Paris clubs on the rescue which we inherited from the Soviet Union," he said.

Mr. Kalu said the capita income critique rigid at a time of economic condition and members should account indications of health other than incomes.

Bank president Ndiaye said alternatively saying poor states should be access to cash.

Pippen scored Chicago's first points of the game. In the third quarter he deflected two Knicks passes to set up two breakaway baskets for Chicago. Horace Grant added 18 points for Chicago, and Patrick Ewing led the Knicks with 18.

In the other Eastern Conference game, Indiana beat top-



seeded Atlanta 102-86 for a 3-1 lead.

The Pacers, who had never won an NBA playoff series before, set a team playoff record with 11 three-point shots, including four by Reggie Miller.

The Pacers can reach the playoff semi-finals with a victory in game five in Atlanta.

In the Western Conference, the battle of the road warriors continued as Houston won their second straight game at Phoenix to level the series 2-2.

The Rockets had lost the opening two games at home, blowing big leads both times.

"They are not chokers... they have done is amazing," coach Rudy Tomjanovich said after his team beat Phoenix 107-96.

Hakeem Olajuwon and Otis Thorpe dominated as the Rockets held Charles Barkley to 19 points, compared to his average of 30.

"In this business you go from the penthouse to the outhouse pretty quickly, and I guess you could say I'm definitely in the outhouse," Barkley said.

In Denver, Reggie Williams' 22-foot jumper with 1.9 seconds left kept the Denver Nuggets alive in their playoffs with the Utah Jazz.

Williams drained his jumper from the left wing to give the Nuggets an exciting 83-82 victory and narrow Utah's lead in their Western Conference semifinals to 3-1.

Williams inbounded the ball to Mahmoud Abdul Rauf, who passed the ball back out to

him. The wide-open Williams then fired from just inside the three-point line, forcing a game five Tuesday night at Utah.

The play was designed for Dikembe Mutombo or Mahmoud. But Mahmoud told me if he didn't have the shot he'd give me the ball. And I was ready to take it," said Williams.

"We would have been going home if I didn't hit this shot."

The Jazz had a chance to

Mattar overcomes Morgan for 1st title outside Brazil

CORAL SPRINGS, Florida (R) — Luis Mattar won his first title outside his native Brazil when he beat Jamie Morgan of Australia in the final of the \$240,000 America's red clay tennis championship Sunday, but he is not expecting much notice back home.

Mattar, the sixth seed, earned a 6-4 3-6 6-3 victory over his seventh-seeded opponent.

The 56th-ranked Brazilian, winner of seven career titles, knows his countrymen have been mourning the death of Formula One driver Ayrton Senna two weeks ago in Monte Carlo, and he also knows tennis must take a back seat to soccer in this World Cup season.

"In Brazil, it is too close to World Cup," Mattar said. "I have to tell you World Cup is really big in Brazil. We have 10 pages for sports — nine and three quarters for soccer and one quarter for Mattar tomorrow."

The victory, also his first on clay courts, provides Mattar with more than just a \$31,000 pay-off check. It confirms his ability to win on foreign terri-

tory.

"Winning in your home country is much better than outside," said Mattar, who is now 1-1 in career matches with Morgan. "Everybody is there for you and paying attention to you."

"But winning a title out of Brazil proves I can play well without a home advantage. I'm very happy with that."

Even Mattar was surprised at how well he did against the 66th-ranked Morgan, a serve-and-volley specialist.

Throughout the entire two hour, three minute match Mattar produced magic. He posted only 10 unforced errors, with just one in the final set.

"Beautiful, that's beautiful," Mattar said when told of his commanding edge in the statistics.

Morgan, who has failed to win any of the three career finals he has contested, was equally impressed.

"That's a pretty good effort," said Morgan, who served 16 aces Sunday.

"Obviously, the guy played well. I played 100 per cent and on the day he was a little better."

Security checks for reporters at World Cup USA causing row

NEW YORK (AP) — With the start of the World Cup just several weeks away, several major U.S. news organisations are refusing demands for security checks on reporters covering the month-long tournament.

The dispute with tournament organisers could threaten coverage for the soccer showcase, the world's most widely viewed sports event.

World Cup organisers contend the security measures are necessary to deter possible terrorism. They are refusing to yield on their demand that reporters sign waiver forms that give organisers the right to request FBI and police files on them.

The form states: "I hereby

request-authorise the Federal Bureau of Investigation, all state and local law enforcement agencies consistent with applicable laws, to release criminal history and criminal investigative records pertaining to me to World Cup USA 1994 Inc., its officials and/or agents to establish security and accreditation eligibility."

The Associated Press has advised its World Cup staff not to sign the forms.

"The Associated Press and its reporters and photographers regard such a requirement as a grossly impermissible intrusion into the private lives of the Associated Press journalists," sports editor Terence Taylor said in a letter to World Cup USA Chairman Alan Rothenberg.

Newspapers joining the AP in objecting included the New York Times, the Washington Post, the Boston Globe, USA Today, the Philadelphia Inquirer, the Philadelphia Daily News, Newsday and the Star-Ledger of Newark, N.J. The Los Angeles Times, among others, agreed to sign the forms.

"We have certain journalistic principles and we will stand by those principles," Neil Ambur, sports editor of the New York Times, said Tuesday.

"I really wonder why a waiver

Jazireh beats Ahli 98-94, captures U-22 basketball championship title

By Aleen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Al Jazireh clinched the first of the season's basketball titles after reversing their first-half defeat and beating Al Ahli 98-94 in overtime in the final match of the under-22 basketball competition organised by the Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF).

As their first-leg encounter had ended 82-86 for Al Jazireh, Al Ahli had the formidable task of defeating their opponents by 16 points to win the title.

The Kingdom's reigning basketball champions set out to retain that difficult goal early on in the first half a tight defence to hinder Al Jazireh's scoring ability.

Al Ahli's determined teamwork paid off as Faisal Ensour, Turner Abutina and Zeid Althus scored to take a 33-18 lead before ending the first half 48-39.

But Al Jazireh's coach and players executed a carefully planned strategy as Ghabith Ennabi, Saqer Kharif and Ma'an Udeh led the team to take control of the second half.

A full court defence by Al

Jazireh caused many turnovers and loose balls enabling them to reduce the gap and take the lead at 66-61.

While Al Ahli greatly missed the efforts of playmaker Faisal Ensour who got his fifth personal foul in the second half, Al Jazireh's new recruit Naser Alawneh made up for teammate Anwar Haddad's fifth foul and led his team to a draw at 82-82 warranting overtime during which Ennabi and Alawneh made sure of winning the game and ending the competition with an unbeaten streak.

Al Abbasi finished third in the competition in which nine teams took part: Al Ahli, Al Abbasi, Yarmouk, Homenmen, Abu Nasir, Al Jazireh, Al Jalil, Gazzet Hashem and Al Watani.

Al Jalil had qualified to the final round with Al Jazireh, Al Ahli and Al Abbasi but according to JBF regulations, were barred from playing the rest of their matches and lost fourth place bonuses after withdrawing in two matches.

Al Ahli's only loss was to Al Jazireh. They had scored impressive and convincing victories in the final round: 83-32.

competition, third in the first division and won the women's championship.

Al Ahli, now the Kingdom's champions after ending Al Orthodox's decade-long reign in the eighties, are attempting to strengthen their young line-up of players to retain the title for many years to come.

They won the first division in 1990, 1992, and 1993. Last season they clinched the title, but fell from second place in the championship.

Abbas, formerly a low-second division club, have been playing with greater confidence since they beat Al Orthodox to clinch third place in the 1993 U-19 competition back in January. The team will play in the second division this year where they hope to overcome competition from Al Yarmouk and others and be promoted to the first division.

The first division this year includes only seven teams. Two teams will be relegated in 1994 and only one team will be promoted from the second division making the total number of competing teams only six in 1995 compared to eight in 1993.

Drivers, team bosses back safety changes

MONACO (AFP) — Formula One's drivers and team bosses backed new safety measures here Monday following the deaths of Ayrton Senna and Roland Ratzenberger.

Drivers' representatives Michael Schumacher of Germany and Gerhard Berger of Austria took part in the meeting which agreed unanimously to back the decision announced by governing body FIA.

Benetton boss Flavio Briatore said: "All the teams are agreed over the changes required for the Grand Prix of Spain."

Berger said a meeting of team engineers ended with even stricter safety measures being suggested. The team bosses plan to approach FIA president Max Mosley with their views.

Austrian Ratzenberger was killed in practice for the San Marino Grand Prix and Brazilian Senna died during the race at Imola May 1. Karl Wendlinger, also of Austria, is currently in a coma after a crash in practice for the Monaco race, won by Schumacher Sunday.

FIA has suggested cutting car power, changing aerodynamics and adding protection for drivers around their heads.

Japan's World Cup chances not to be affected by Maradona ban

TOKYO (R) — The Brazilian head coach of the Japanese national team said Monday that Japan's refusal to grant an entry visa to Diego Maradona would not affect the country's chances of bidding for the 2002 World Cup finals.

However, Falcao added that although the issue was political: "I think our Japanese team lost a good chance (to play Argentina)."

Last week's decision by the Japanese government, based on Maradona's past drug offences, triggered a row between Japan and Argentina, which withdrew its team from the three-nation tournament featuring France and Japan.

Japanese soccer officials are worried that the government's decision to stick by its traditional ban on foreign drug offenders will cast a shadow over the country's bid to host

the World Cup in eight years' time.

"In view of Japanese economic power and support from soccer fans and the media, Japan has enough of a chance to host the 2002 World Cup," said Falcao.

Japanese hopes were further dented last week when the head of South Korea's World Cup campaign, Chung Mong-Joon, was elected Friday as the Asian Football Confederation's vice president on the world soccer body FIFA.

South Korea have qualified four times for the World Cup finals while Japan have never qualified.

Korda checks Swedish cup hopes

DUSSELDORF, Germany (AFP) — Peter Korda overcame a totally inadequate Stefan Edberg 6-1 6-4 to give the Czech Republic an early lead over Sweden at the World Team Cup.

The Swede managed to earn just four points in the first five games. Edberg finally held serve for 1-5, but Korda took the first set when Edberg finally hit a forehand long.

Edberg, who took only two games of Korda in the same event a year ago, had no touch at all, mis-timing his runs to the net and committing a string of errors on his volleys.

Although he offered a little

"He didn't make many mistakes, but I didn't play particularly well in the beginning. I wasn't really in the match," admitted Edberg.

"I have lost my game a little since Madrid last month and have to try and put it back together again. The way I'm playing now, the French Open will be tough, but you can play at bis next opportunity, winning in 59 minutes."

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Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♦1097 Q2 A1078 9410
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 Pass 1 NT Pass
2 Pass
What action do you take?

Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦Q987 6 J8432 ♦Q2
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 + 2 Pass
What action do you take?

Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦AQ63 J K43 ♦Q743
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 + 2 Pass
What do you bid now?

Q.4—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦Q88 J A876 6K2 ♦K32 ♦Q88
Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What do you respond?

Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦Q9542 6 J8432 ♦Q2
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 + 2 Pass
What action do you take?

Q.6—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦AQ63 J K43 ♦Q743
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 + 2 Pass
What do you bid now?

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Hariri returns to work

BEIRUT (R) — Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri returned to work Monday after a week-long strike that plunged Lebanon into its worst political crisis in nearly two years. Officials said Mr. Hariri resumed his activity at the government headquarters for the first time since May 8 when he announced he was staying home after a planned cabinet reshuffle was blocked by President Elias Hrawi and House Speaker Nabih Berri. Mr. Hariri would chair a cabinet meeting later Monday. The prime minister decided Saturday to return to work after talks with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, the main power broker in Lebanon, though his demands were not met.

Rebels kill 9 villagers in Turkey

A. KARA (AFP) — Kurdish rebels killed nine villagers in Edeboluk and set fire to some houses in the eastern region of Erzincan, the Turkish news agency Anatolia reported Monday. The Kurds used machine-gun fire in the attack late last night, the agency said. Only hours earlier Interior Minister Nahit Menes had issued a statement saying that the separatist Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) fighting the Turkish authorities for a decade was on the point of breaking up after a series of military defeats. Police in Istanbul were meanwhile holding a couple suspected of planting a bomb on the Blue Train at the railway station minutes before its departure for Ankara overnight. The couple, slightly injured in the blast, had Turkish nationality, police said.

German campaign for presidency nears end

BONN (R) — The kid-gloves campaign for Germany's presidency went into its final week Monday with second-placed candidate Johannes Rau grasping some sensitive issues in a bid to close the gap. The Social Democrat (SPD) hopeful sketched out a liberal plan on immigration in an interview in which he came as close as he could to criticising the tough stand of Christian Democrat (CDU) front-runner Roman Herzog. Mr. Rau, who easily beats Mr. Herzog in popularity polls, has also been canvassing disgruntled East German CDU deputies to urge them to break ranks and back him in the special Electoral College that selects the president on May 23. But Mr. Herzog, Chancellor Helmut Kohl's candidate, still seemed to have enough of the Electoral College's 1,324 deputies behind him to survive any defections during the complex voting. "There won't be enough for the SPD man to score a surprise victory," the news weekly *Der Spiegel* said of the defections. The Electoral College, which meets in Berlin, may have to vote three times if, as expected, Mr. Herzog wins most but not all of the 50 per cent needed in the first two rounds. With the largest block of votes behind him, he is expected to win at least the simple majority needed in the third round and could do even better if the Free Democrats (FDP) withdraw their candidate and support him.

Worst mine blast in China kills 38

BEIJING (R) — A gas explosion in a Jiangxi province coal mine killed 30 Chinese miners, the largest death toll from a single mining accident in China this year, an official newspaper reported. Investigators blamed the May 1 blast at the state-owned Finghu Coal Mine on "engineering mistakes, poor management and other human causes." Anhui Daily reported in editions seen Monday in Beijing. Details of the explosion were not disclosed and no reason was given for the two-week delay in reporting it. Among the 38 dead were five supervisors from the local mining bureau, the report said, calling the blast "the biggest single mining accident in China this year." Coal industry Vice Minister Zhang Baoming held a nationwide telephone conference on May 5 to exhort local officials to strengthen mine safety, saying the Finghu blast was this year's ninth major mining accident. More than 10,000 miners die each year in China's poorly supervised mines, according to official figures.

Pakistanis flee Yemen for Karachi

KARACHI, Pakistan (R) — More than 200 Pakistanis evacuated from Yemen's civil war flew into Karachi aboard a special flight, officials said. Most of the 232 evacuees were wives and children of Pakistani businessmen and diplomats living in the Yemeni cities of Sanaa and Aden, a Pakistani International Airlines official said. They were among the last of the foreigners there. "The situation was horrible," said one woman. "It was worst on May 5 when Scud missiles rained on Sanaa." "There was no water, no electricity and food was scarce," another woman said. Many were teachers from the Pakistan Embassy School or wives and children of Pakistani bankers working in Yemen. Most Pakistanis in Sanaa had taken refuge from the civil war in the Pakistan Embassy School while those in Aden were housed in a United Nations building, they said. Officials said about 1,000 Pakistanis were living in Yemen when the civil war erupted that month. While many had made their way to neighbouring Saudi Arabia, many more were still in Yemen, they said.

Chinese leave Yemen for home

BEIJING (AFP) — More than 200 Chinese construction workers, engineers and medical personnel arrived in Beijing Monday, after fleeing the bloody civil war in Yemen. Some 160 Chinese workers were flown home Friday and a further 358 were scheduled to return later Monday. Among the latest arrivals who flew in on a chartered Boeing 767, were 34 who had been stranded in southern Yemen ever since civil war broke out on May 4. The deputy director of a Chinese medical team, Zhang Chengjian, was shot dead during their eventual evacuation. Foreign Minister Qian Qichen said last week that China was "seriously concerned with the worsening situation in Yemen and deeply grieved by the huge loss in lives and property."

Rushdie receives literary award

VIENNA (AFP) — British author Salman Rushdie was presented with the European prize for literature Monday by the Austrian Minister for Education and Culture Rudolf Scholten. The prize, which was awarded to Rushdie in 1992 and includes a cash prize of \$17,000, was handed over amid strict security at the ministry. Rushdie has been living in hiding since he was condemned to death by the late Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeini for allegedly blaspheming Islam in his novel *The Satanic Verses*. The writer was emotional during the ceremony saying he had almost forgotten what it was like to be in a room full of people discussing his work. A jury of authorities decided to award Rushdie the prize in 1992 but their decision was kept secret for a year because Austrian authorities said they could not ensure Rushdie's security in Vienna.

Gaza suffering shown at Cannes

CANNES, France (AFP) — The sufferings of Palestinians on the Gaza Strip were brought to the somewhat less harsh surroundings of the French riviera Monday, in a moving drama-documentary at the film festival here. Curfew, by 32-year-old director Rashid Masharawi, tells the story of 24 hours in the life of an ordinary family living under curfew in a refugee camp. It was made before the recent autonomy agreements reached with Israel. The film includes the depiction of a house being destroyed by the Israeli army while Palestinian neighbours look helplessly on, while a number of Palestinians are taken off for no apparent reason. The film was presented Monday in the Director's Fortnight selection of films here, and is also selected in the Camera D'Or (Golden Camera) section of the festival, for first-time film makers. The dominant themes of the 75-minute movie — above all boredom, but mixed with the tension of not knowing what will happen next, is summed up by the words of one of the main characters, Abu Raji. "That's all you're good at, saying tomorrow things will improve, and the day after will be better. We don't even know what today will bring," he says.

Red Cross tries to move food to trapped Rwandans

NAIROBI (R) — Red Cross workers Monday attempted to deliver food to thousands of trapped civilians outside Rwanda's capital Kigali during a lull in fighting between rebels and government forces, officials said.

They said the aid workers would try to move a convoy carrying 40 tonnes of porridge from Kigali to Kabgayi some 45 kilometres southwest where refugees are living in death camp conditions.

"Yesterday when they tried to get the food out of (Kigali) the warehouse was shot at," a spokeswoman for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Nairobi said.

But after heavy artillery duels between government army positions and those of the rebel Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) Sunday, U.N. officials described Kigali as ominously calm.

"It is very quiet this morning. But it is usual that there is calm before a big storm," Abdul Kabin, executive director of the U.N.'s Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR) said from the embattled city by telephone.

Kigali, once a quiet African city known for its lush gardens and flowers, has become a slum reeking of dead bodies since the fighting started, residents said.

Reuter reporters who visited Kabgayi Friday said refugees, mainly from the minority Tutsi clan, were taking out an existence in sub-human conditions.

Dead bodies lie unburied at the centre of the camp, miserable groups huddle around camp fires, stretching out their hands for a share of communal cooked up in large, rusty vats.

Refugees said they were being kept virtual prisoners by government army troops and that people were repeatedly pulled out of the compound and butchered by extremist death squads from the Hutu tribe.

The deaths of countless thousands — aid workers say up to 500,000 — of Tutsi and opposition party Hutus are blamed on the death squads and government soldiers who went on the rampage after President Juvenal Habyarimana was killed in a rocket attack on his plane on April 6.

The United Nations Commission on Human Rights is holding an emergency session later this month to discuss the killings. Only the third in its history, the session is expected to continue military aid

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian Defense Minister Mohammad Hussein Tantawi said Monday he was confident the United States would maintain its \$1.3 billion annual military aid to Egypt, at least for the time being.

Mr. Tantawi was speaking after meeting Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to report on his recent visit to Washington and talks with Pentagon officials.

"The U.S. administration showed full understanding of Egypt's role and position and is taking the appropriate procedures regarding the arms sales and the development of Egypt's armed forces, which is proceeding according to a five-year plan already under execution," Mr. Tantawi told reporters.

"The U.S. administration has introduced some cuts in its military aid budget in the world but due to Egypt's role and importance in the region, I hope we will not be affected by this reduction," he added.

Mr. Tantawi discussed U.S. military aid to Egypt and other issues during a two-hour meeting last Tuesday in Washington with Defence Secretary William Perry.

Malawi parliament passes constitution on eve of poll

ZOMBA, Malawi (AFP) — Malawi's parliament Monday passed a new interim constitution the very day before multi-party elections set to end three decades of paternalistic rule by veteran President Kamuzu Banda.

Justice Minister Lovemore Munlo presented the constitutional bill to 141 members of parliament from Mr. Banda's ruling Malawi Congress Party, in a special one-day session convened before 3.8 million Malawians are called to the polls.

to appoint a "special rapporteur" or investigator to look into rights violations in the Rwandan conflict.

ICRC officials have been trying to establish a 500-bed hospital in Kabgayi but the government military refuses to declare the area neutral, leaving it vulnerable to attacks by the militia.

Efforts by former French Humanitarian Affairs Minister Bernard Kouchner to secure safe passage for civilians wanting to leave areas blitzed by fighting or patrolled by militias went awry when his convoy was shot at outside Kigali Sunday.

Mr. Kouchner was driving back from Gitarama, the regional town where the rump government is based, when his entourage scurried for cover.

Meanwhile, Dutch Overseas Minister Jan Pronk called on the United States to lead an airlift of food to thousands of displaced Rwandans inside the country. Hundreds of thousands have also fled to neighbouring countries.

Mr. Pronk, who visited Kigali at the weekend, told Radio Netherlands an international protection force should be deployed to protect relief convoys.

The U.N. Security Council is expected to vote on sending a force of up to 5,500 peacekeepers to the central African nation.

Tuesday, aid workers warned the world body against embarking on another operation without proper planning.

"Just dispatching troops without an overall approach to end the fighting with diplomatic and political measures suggests to me that they (the United Nations) haven't learnt their lesson," Malcolm Fraser, former Australian prime minister and president of the aid group Care International, said in Sydney after visiting Rwandan refugees in Tanzania.

A spokeswoman for the aid agency Medecins Sans Frontieres said hospitals in the 200,000-strong Tanzanian camp at Benaco were already filling up with patients suffering respiratory diseases, dysentery and diarrhoea.

"There have been at least 10 deaths from pneumonia while dysentery and diarrhoea are increasing," the spokeswoman told Reuters.

"Doctors say conditions will continue to deteriorate and there could be an epidemic within three weeks."



Armenian soldiers jump down from a tank, coming back from the combat positions in Agdam region, Azerbaijan. Armenian and Azeri sides exchange fire (AFP photo)

these days as a matter of routine, but without taking further offensive action (AFP photo)

Armenians, Azeris agree Karabakh truce

MOSCOW (R) — Armenia and Azerbaijan Monday agreed a ceasefire in the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh to come into effect from midnight (2000 GMT), a senior Armenian official said.

Armenian embassy spokesman Hamlet Gushyan said by telephone Armenian forces had also agreed in principle to withdraw from large parts of Azeri territory outside Karabakh which they occupied in a series of offensives last year. The agreement was reached at Moscow talks mediated by Russian officials.

The Moscow talks took place between the defence ministers of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Russia as well as the chief of Nagorno-Karabakh's defence forces.

"It was the most productive meeting between the sides for

six years," Mr. Gushyan said.

All previous attempts to negotiate an end to the protracted conflict have failed. Both Azeri and Armenian officials said before the talks started that any agreement would only be a first step towards an overall deal.

Mr. Gushyan said Armenian forces would start withdrawing from Azeri territory starting on May 25. It was not immediately possible to contact Azeri officials for their comments.

The protracted conflict, longest-running of all the wars on the territory of the Soviet Union, has killed several thousand people and caused more than one million, mainly Azeri, refugees.

Although the mountainous territory of Karabakh technically still belongs to Azerbaijan

jan, ethnic Armenians have virtually driven all Azeri civilians out and proclaimed an independent republic.

Big-power Russia says it has strategic interest in the region which borders on Iran and the Middle East. Brokering a peace treaty between Armenia and Azerbaijan would help it strengthen its influence there.

Both Armenia and Azerbaijan are under domestic pressure to find a settlement to the protracted crisis.

The Armenian economy is throttled by an energy crisis that stems from an embargo imposed by Azerbaijan on supplies of Turkmen natural gas across its territory to Armenia.

For Azerbaijan, the war has created internal turmoil that has already caused the downfall of two governments.

Column 10

Hillary Clinton moved by Mandela inaugural

WASHINGTON (R) — First lady Hillary Clinton, clearly moved by the inauguration of South African President Nelson Mandela, told graduates at the University of Illinois Sunday the highlight came when Mr. Mandela revealed he had invited three of his former jailers to the ceremony. Mrs. Clinton spoke emotionally of the changes that brought to power South Africa's first black leader, calling last week's inaugural "an incredibly moving and historical experience."

"Despite enormous differences in a far away land torn by racial strife and hatred and violence that we cannot even imagine, (they) joined together in a vision of a new South Africa," she said. "But the highlight of the entire inaugural came, for me, later at a lunch, where President Mandela stood and talked about how he had invited to his inaugural ceremony three of his former jailers," Mrs. Clinton said in a commencement speech. She told the graduates that Mr. Mandela, who spent 27 years as a political prisoner, had been in jail longer than many of them had lived.

"And yet, because he was a man who understood that real change must come from within... he learned to love his jailers and they, in turn learned to love him. They broke through the barriers that divide us to see each other in their full humanity," she said. Mrs. Clinton confessed that as she sat listening she wondered whether she would have "the depth and forgiveness and love to reach out to those who oppose and attack me or my husband."

Mrs. Clinton was a member of the U.S. delegation, led by Vice President Al Gore, that attended Mr. Mandela's inauguration last Tuesday.

U.S. handgun crimes hit all time record

WASHINGTON (R) — Violent crimes committed nationwide with handguns set a record in 1992, soaring almost 50 per cent from the annual average the previous five years, the Justice Department said Sunday. The department's Bureau of Justice Statistics reported that handguns bad been used in 93,000 murders, rapes, robberies and assaults in 1992, up from the annual average of 667,000 from 1987 to 1991.

Handgun crimes accounted for an increased percentage — now about 13 per cent — of all violent crimes, it said. The release of the statistics came as the Clinton administration and Congress consider new ways to restrict guns to cut down on rampant inner-city violence. President Bill Clinton already signed into law the so-called Brady Bill requiring a five-day waiting period for the purchase of handguns and has vigorously supported legislation banning a number of assault weapons.

Dozens of U.N. and American soldiers have died in Somalia since the first U.S. Marines hit the beaches of Mogadishu in December, 1992, aiming to end famine and chaos. The last U.S. Marines left Mogadishu on March 26 this year. The latest violence comes a day ahead of an expected vote by the U.N. Security Council on sending thousands of fresh peacekeepers to Rwanda.

The ill-fated Somalia mission has been cited by officials who urge the United Nations to plan its operation in Rwanda more carefully than it did on the streets of Mogadishu.

Somali gunmen kill 5 U.N. soldiers

MOGADISHU (R) — Five Nepalese U.N. peacekeepers were killed when they tried to stop fighting between Somali clan militias in South Mogadishu, a U.N. military spokesman said.

Witnesses said several Somalis were killed or wounded in the fighting in a maze of streets near the U.N.-controlled airport.

"I understand there was inter-clan fighting in the area prior to the attack. The Nepalese went in to mediate and were fired upon," U.N. military spokesman Major Chris Budge told Reuters.

"I don't know whether they were caught in crossfire or directly attacked. At present I am leaning towards a direct attack," Maj. Budge added.

Maj. Budge said that after coming under small arms fire, the Nepalese returned fire and as the situation developed the Egyptian and Pakistani Quick Reaction Forces (QRF) were deployed as a means of precautionary protection.

The fighting was between

members of warlord Mohammad Farah Aideed's Habre Gedir clan and their rivals of the Hawadle, witnesses said. The same district was the scene of a 10-day clash between the clans in late April and early May.

Witnesses said the Habre Gedir also blamed for killings of U.N. peacekeepers last year which prompted a withdrawal of American peacekeepers, were behind the attack on the Nepalese.

They were the first U.N. casualties since two Nepalese were killed in the same area of Mogadishu on April 16.

The spokesman said the wounded soldier was taken to the squalid, bomb-damaged Diger Hospital by staff of the International Committee of the Red Cross and his condition was stable.

The wounded man was the first U.N. peacekeeper to be treated in one of the Somali hospitals, which overflow with gunshot victims, rather than a U.N. hospital. It was not clear why he was not sent to one of two U.N. facilities.

The prince was welcomed at

Charles heals wounds of history in Russia

ST PETERSBURG (R) — Britain's Prince Charles began a visit Monday to Russia's majestic second city St. Petersburg, the birthplace of the revolution that swept his distant Romanov relations from the throne.

The heir to Queen Elizabeth's crown flew into St. Petersburg by private royal jet for a four-day tour of the former seat of Tsarist power and cradle of the 1917 uprising which gave birth to the Soviet state.

The king-in-waiting trip officially lays to rest the ghosts of the